

# ***Joy Lutheran Licensing***

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***As a courtesy to others,  
we ask that you please keep  
conversations low and to a minimum.***

***PLEASE MAKE SURE*  
*ALL CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.***

***Thank You.***

A white dove is shown in flight, carrying an olive branch, positioned above a globe. A large, faint cross is superimposed over the globe. The background is a soft-focus image of a sandy beach with some greenery on the right side.

**Our mission is to share  
the Good News  
of grace and love with all  
through worship, service,  
and fellowship.**



**Our Vision:**  
**Joy is a spiritual community**  
**sharing the love of Christ in a**  
**challenging world.**



# How Many Times?

Matthew 18:21-35

*16th Sunday After Pentecost-September 13, 2026*

P  
R  
E  
L  
U  
D  
E



***“How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord of hosts!”***

**“Awakening”- (Ps. 84:1)-com. Richard Kingsmore**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who pours love into our hearts and healing  
upon the earth.

C Amen.

P Confident that God justifies us by grace  
through faith, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*



**P** Compassionate God,

**C** we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.



**C Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.**

**Turn our hearts back to you.**

**Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**



**P** Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through  Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

**C** Amen.

**GATHERING HYMN:**

***“Ten Thousand  
Reasons”***

**ACS # 1097**



# Chorus

**Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name**



# Verse 1

The sun comes up  
it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing  
Your song again

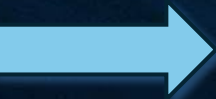


**Whatever may pass  
and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when  
the evening comes**



# Chorus

**Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name**



## Verse 2

**You're rich in love  
and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great  
and Your heart is kind**

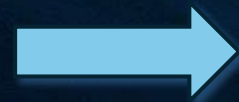


**For all Your goodness  
I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons  
for my heart to find**



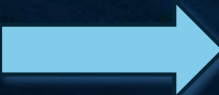
# Chorus

**Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name**



## Verse 3

And on that day  
when my strength is failing  
The end draws near  
and my time has come



**Still my soul will  
sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years  
and then forevermore**



# Chorus

**Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name.**

# ***Greeting***

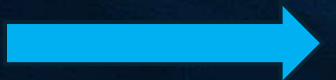
P: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

***KYRIE:***

**“Kyrie Eleison”**

**ACS Setting 12**



**Kyrie eleison.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**Christe eleison.  
Christ, have mercy.**

**Kyrie eleison.  
Lord, have mercy.**

P: Let us pray.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

C: Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

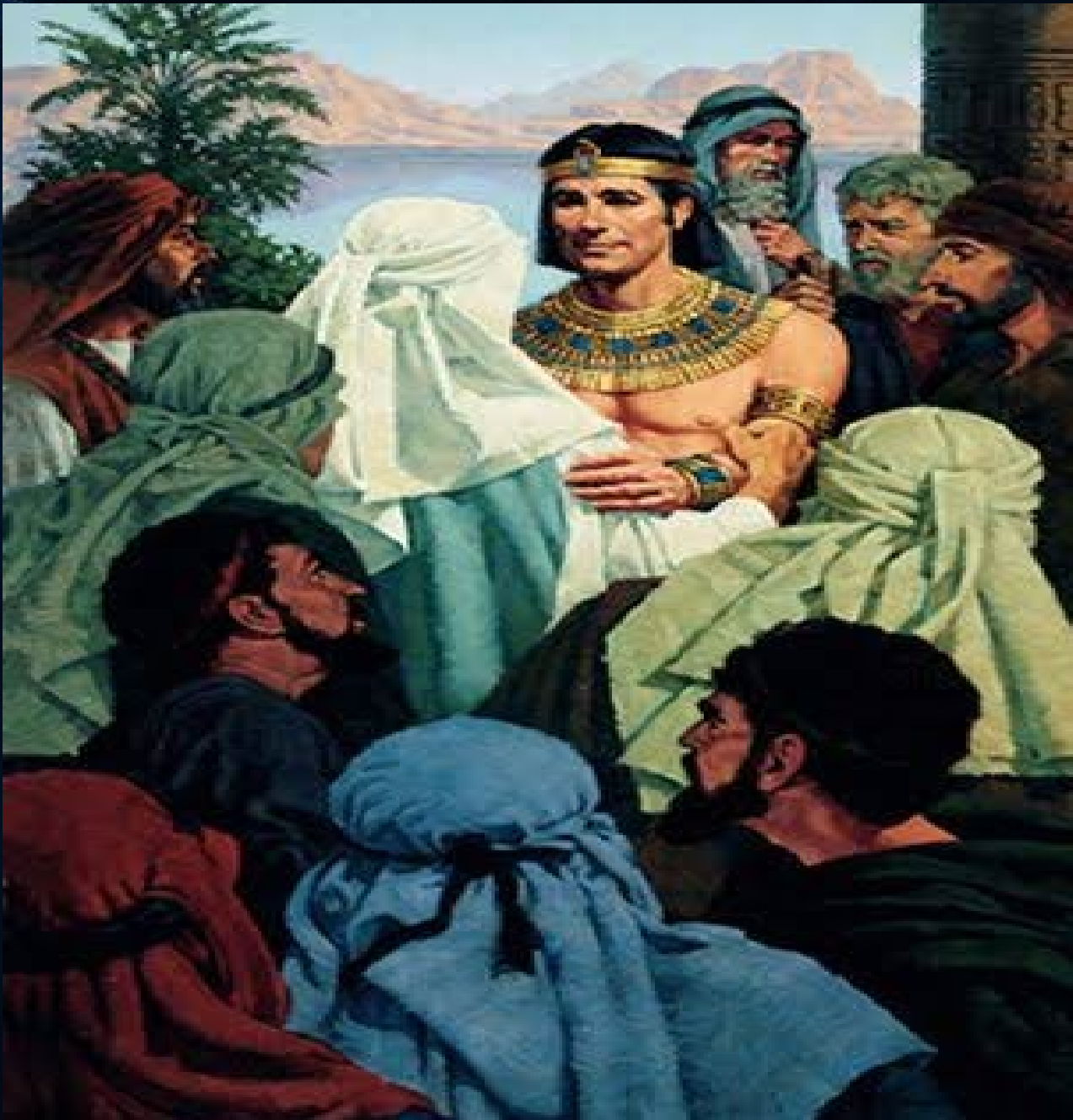
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

“I AM SORRY”

“I FORGIVE  
YOU”

“HOW MANY  
TIMES?”





# GENESIS 50:15-21

*Joseph  
reconciles  
with his  
brothers.*



**P:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

# *PSALM 103: [1-7], 8-13*

*R: “Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, of compassion and mercy.” (Ps.103:8)*

<sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, | O my soul, and all  
That is within me, bless God's | holy  
name.



***<sup>2</sup> Bless the Lord, | O my soul, and  
forget not | all God's benefits—***

***<sup>3</sup> who forgives | all your sins and  
heals all | your diseases;***



***4 who redeems your life | from the  
grave and crowns you with  
steadfast | love and mercy; R***

***“Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
of compassion and mercy.”***



<sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires I with  
good things so that your youth is  
renewed I like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> *O Lord, you provide I vindication  
and justice for all who I are  
oppressed.*



<sup>7</sup> You made known your | ways to  
Moses and your works to the  
chil| dren of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> *Lord, you are full of compas- | sion  
and mercy, slow to anger and  
abounding in | steadfast love; R*



*“Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
of compassion and mercy.”*

<sup>9</sup> you will not al- I ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- I ger  
forever.



***10 You have not dealt with us  
according to our sins, nor repaid  
us according to our iniquities.***

**11 For as the heavens are high  
above the earth, so great is  
your steadfast love for those  
who fear you.**

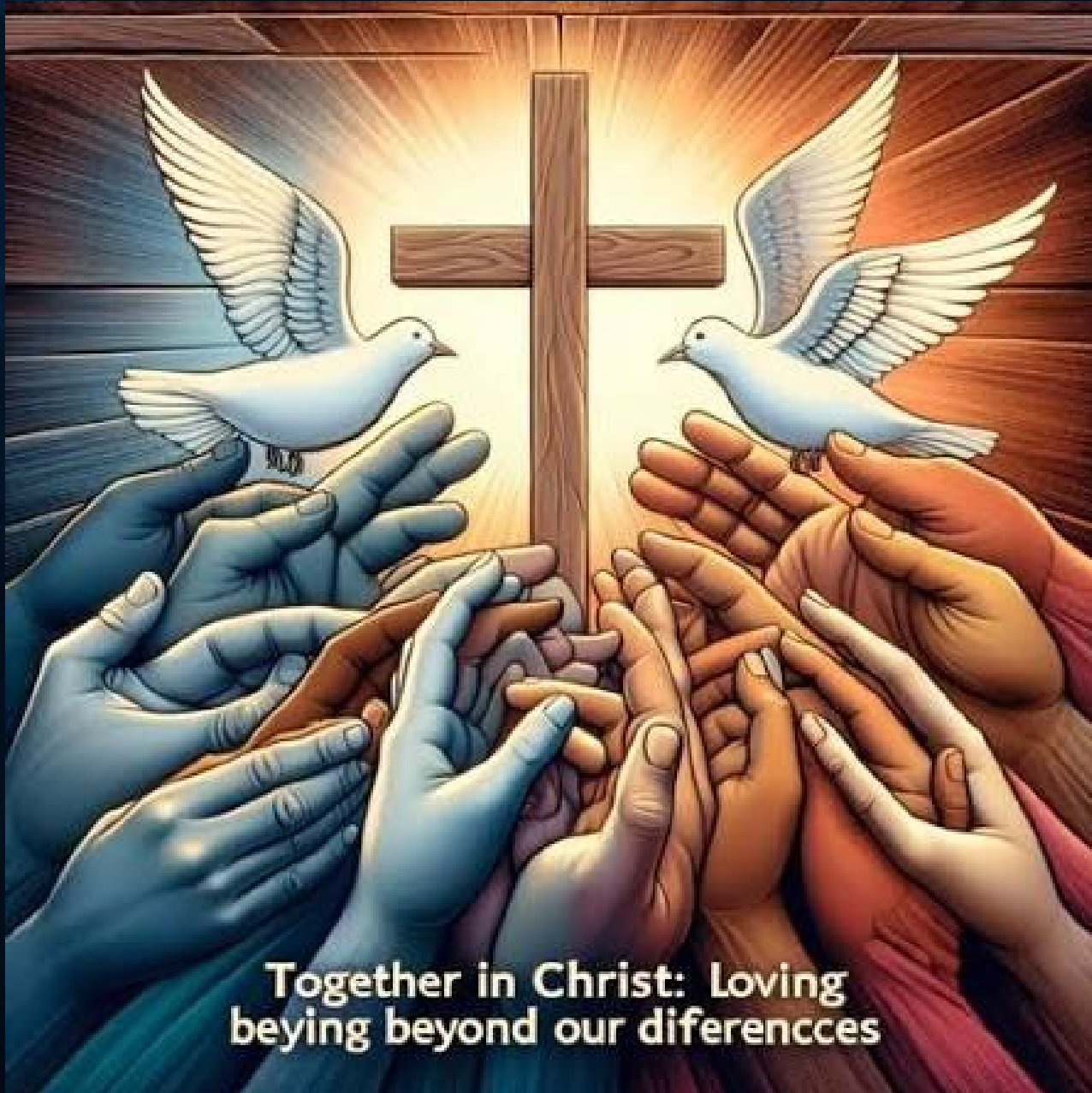


***12 As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.***

**13** As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord. **R**



***“Lord, you are full of  
compassion and mercy,  
of compassion and mercy.”***



Together in Christ: Loving  
being beyond our differences

# Romans 14:1-12

*Accepting  
diversity in the  
community of  
faith.*



**P: The word of the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***SPECIAL MUSIC: 8:15 AM***



***Jill Davis***

***CHOIR ANTHEM: 11:00 AM***



***“Disciples of Christ”- JOY Choir***

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:***

***“Alleluia”***

***ACS Setting 12***



**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**



**P: The Holy  
Gospel  
According to  
Matthew  
18:21-35**

**C: Glory to  
you O Lord**



**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Today's  
Message Is  
Given By:*

*Pr. Art Wuertz*



***a moment of silence  
for reflection***

***HYMN OF THE DAY:***

***“I Come With Joy”***

***ELW # 482***



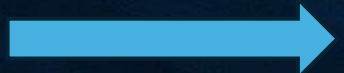
1

I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.



2

**I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.**



3

**As Christ breaks bread  
and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us,  
makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.**



4

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.**



5

Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

## *Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**



**born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**



**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand  
of the Father,  
and he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**



I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

# **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

A pair of hands is shown clasped together in a prayer position, with fingers pointing upwards. The hands are positioned in the center-left of the frame. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with a soft, out-of-focus bokeh effect, suggesting a bright light source like the sun. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

**Response after each petition is:  
“Your Mercy Is Great”**

# *Passing of the Peace*

**P:** The peace of the  
Lord be with you  
always.

**C:** And also  
with you.

*(Share the sign of peace  
in the manner you feel most comfortable.)*



# OFFERTORY:



“Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”-com. Isao Koizumi

# ***CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY***

***“Praise God From Whom  
All Blessings Flow”***

***ELW # 884***



**Praise God,  
from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

# ***Offertory Prayer***

**A:** God of creation,  
you send rain and the earth springs  
forth abundantly.  
All blessings are from you;  
make us generous with what we have.



**A:** Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

**C: Amen.**

# ***The Sacrament of Communion***

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** We lift them to the Lord.



**P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our  
God.**

**C: It is right to give our thanks  
and praise.**

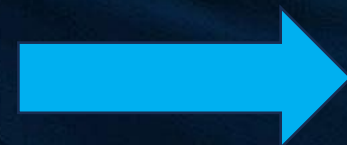
***It is indeed  
right...***



**SANCTUS:**

**“Holy, Holy,  
Holy Lord”**

**ACS Setting 12**



**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and God of might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

# ***Eucharistic Prayer***

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## ***Words of Institution***



# ***The Lord's Prayer***

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day  
our daily bread;  
and forgive us  
our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not  
into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

# ***Invitation to Communion***

P: Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

C: Amen.

~~~~~

***ALL** baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.*

***ALTAR RAIL communion will be observed today.***

*Gluten-free wafers and clear apple juice are available.*

***If you would like to receive communion at your seat,  
please let the usher know.***

**“LAMB OF GOD”**

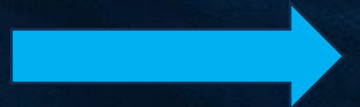
**ELW Page 182**



**O Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us.**



**O Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us.**



**O Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace,  
grant us your peace.**

# ***Communion Meditation: 11:00 AM***



***Jill Davis***

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN:**

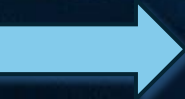
***“One Bread, One Body”***

***ELW # 496***

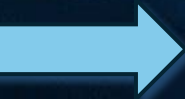


# *Refrain*

**One bread, one body,  
one Lord of all;  
one cup of blessing  
which we bless,**

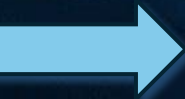


**and we, though many  
throughout the earth,  
we are one body  
in this one Lord.**



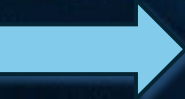
1

**Gentile or Jew,  
servant or free,  
woman or man,  
no more**

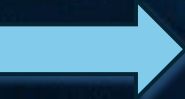


# *Refrain*

**One bread, one body,  
one Lord of all;  
one cup of blessing  
which we bless,**

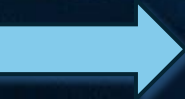


**and we, though many  
throughout the earth,  
we are one body  
in this one Lord.**



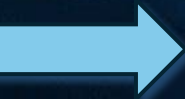
2

**Many the gifts,  
many the works,  
one in the Lord of all.**

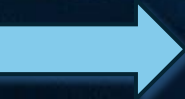


# *Refrain*

**One bread, one body,  
one Lord of all;  
one cup of blessing  
which we bless,**

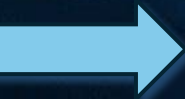


**and we, though many  
throughout the earth,  
we are one body  
in this one Lord.**



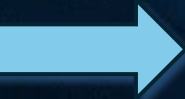
3

**Grain for the fields,  
scattered and grown,  
gathered to one for all.**



# *Refrain*

**One bread, one body,  
one Lord of all;  
one cup of blessing  
which we bless,**



**and we, though many  
throughout the earth,  
we are one body  
in this one Lord.**

***“In The Singing”***

***ELW # 466***



1

In the singing,  
in the silence,  
in the hands expectant,  
open,



**in the blessing,  
in the breaking,  
in your presence  
at this table,**



# *Refrain*

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,  
be the wine of grace;  
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,  
be the bread of peace.**



2

**In the question,  
in the answer,  
in the moment of acceptance,**



in the heart's cry,  
in the healing,  
in the circle of your people,



# *Refrain*

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,  
be the wine of grace;  
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,  
be the bread of peace.**

***“Softly and Tenderly”***

***ELW # 608***



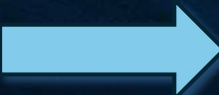
1

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and  
watching,  
watching for you and for me.**



## *Refrain*

**"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!) You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"**



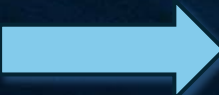
2

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is  
pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not  
his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me?**



## *Refrain*

**"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!) You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"**



3

Oh, for the wonderful love he has  
promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has  
mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me.



## *Refrain*

**"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!) You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

# ***Communion Blessing***

P: The body and blood of our Lord  
Jesus Christ strengthen you and  
keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

## *Prayer after Communion*

A: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.



A: Make us living signs of your liberation,  
healing, and love, following the way  
of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

# BLESSING

P: The God of love  
draw you into full accord and one  
mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen



**P:** The God of hope  
grant you strength and joy in all  
circumstances through the  
interceding of the Spirit.

**C: Amen**



P: The God of grace ✝  
bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**

***“God’s Work,  
Our Hands”***

***ACS 1000***



1

**God's work, our hands:  
working together,  
building a future,  
repairing the world,**



**raising up homes,  
planting new gardens,  
feeding the hungry  
and shelt'ring the cold.**



**Bless, God, our hands  
as we work in your name,  
sharing the good news  
of your gospel.**



2

**God's work, our feet:  
trav'ling together,  
following Jesus  
to places unknown,**



walking as friends,  
marching for freedom,  
running the race  
with God's future the goal.



**Bless, God, our feet  
as we follow your way,  
sharing the good news  
of your gospel.**



3

**God's work, our voice:  
singing together,  
praising, proclaiming to  
all who will hear,**



**praying for peace,  
shouting for justice,  
claiming God's love  
for the lost and the least.**



**Bless, God, our voice  
as we speak in your name,  
sharing the good news  
of your gospel.**



4

**God is at work  
in and around us:  
seedlings are sprouting  
and bread's on the rise!**



**Washed and set free,  
humbled and honored,  
gifted by grace,  
we respond in God's love.**



**Bless, God, our lives  
as we answer your call,  
sharing the good news  
of your gospel.**

# ***Sending***

A: Go out in joy.

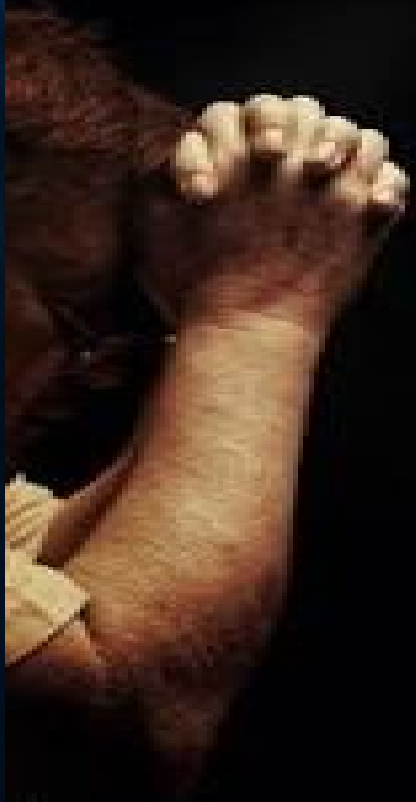
Be led forth in peace.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# POSTLUDE



“Let All Things Now Living”-arr. Pepper Choplin



# How Many Times?

Matthew 18:21-35

*16th Sunday After Pentecost-September 13, 2026*